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House of Representatives

The House met at 10:00 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. COLLINS).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
February 26, 1998.

I hereby designate the Honorable MAC COLLINS to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NEWT GINGRICH,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Rev. James David Ford, D.D., offered the following prayer:

With gratefulness and praise, with high hopes and anticipation, with a sense of thankfulness and with hearts of appreciation, we welcome this new day of grace. Of all Your blessings, O God, that fill the hours and nurture us until our last time, we pray for knowledge to understand our tasks and wisdom to choose the harder right instead of the easier wrong. May Your peace, gracious God, fill our hearts and souls with comfort and commitment that we may serve people in justice and in righteousness. This is our earnest prayer. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RUSH)

come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. RUSH led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces there will be 15 one-minute speeches from each side.

WAKE UP CALL ON EDUCATION

(Mr. GIBBONS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, in the most recent international education survey conducted on U.S. high school seniors, U.S. ranks near the bottom in math and science. The math category alone, our students ranked 21st out of 23 countries.

My purpose this morning is not to shame the American youth nor blame our hard working teachers in this country, but rather to give a wake-up call to my colleagues.

For too long our liberal, but well-intended, colleagues have squandered billions of Federal education dollars on national testing and bloated Washington bureaucracy. It is high time they stop wasting money and start directing more money and more control to our parents, teachers, and communities.

Let us face it, parents and teachers are the people who know our kids the best. I have a 10-year-old son in Nevada's public school system. I would much rather have the parents and teachers and school officials in Reno, Nevada, decide what is best for my son's education rather than some know-it-all Washington bureaucrat.

Please, for the sake of our children, let us get America's education system on track by keeping big government out of our school systems.

STOP BLOCKING COMMON-SENSE MANAGED CARE REFORM

(Ms. DELAURO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, the Speaker says this body will not vote on common-sense managed care reform until we have a "vision discussion."

I have a vision for the Speaker. Envision this: Janet Drouin, 32-year-old woman from Stafford Springs, Connecticut. Janet was diagnosed with breast cancer and underwent a mastectomy and lymph node dissection. She was kicked out of the hospital only 36 hours after the surgery, in incredible pain, and with drainage tubes protruding through her chest.

Janet had two toddlers at the time. She was unable to take care of her children herself. She could not go to the bathroom by herself. She could not even get out of bed. The Speaker and the Republican leadership are clearly more worried about collecting the campaign checks from the health insurance industry than protecting the health and the well-being of people like Janet Drouin.

I urge the Republican leadership, stop blocking commonsense managed care reform. Schedule a vote today.

A TAX CUT FOR AMERICA'S CONSUMERS

(Mr. DELAY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge the Congress to pass legislation that would give the average American consumer a 30 percent tax cut. We can

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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